

Private Investment in Agriculture

2594. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked all the States to amend the Agriculture Produce marketing Committee Act to formulate rules and procedures in a way to attract higher flow of private investment into the agricultural marketing sector;

(b) whether the Cabinet Committee has approved to incorporate some modifications in operational guidelines of the Central sector scheme "development of agriculture marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization";

(c) if so, whether State Governments have agreed to implement the suggestions; and

(d) to what extent these norms have helped to improve the Central agriculture scheme and also private investors in agriculture marketing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) With a view to attract large investments from private sector for development of post-harvest and cold chain infrastructure nearer to farmer's field, the State Governments have been advised to promote competitive agricultural markets in private and cooperative sectors, direct marketing and contract farming programmes by amending the State Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation Acts (APMC Act). The Ministry of agriculture has formulated a model law on agricultural marketing for guidance and adoption by the States. National level meetings were organized with the State Governments at Delhi on 07.01.2004 and at Bangalore on 19.11.2004, where all the States in general agreed to bring changes in the APMC Act. So far, 12 State Governments and one Union Territory (UT) have implemented the suggested marketing reforms and have amended their APMC Acts. There are two States and four UTs which do not have APMC Acts. Hence, 19 States and U.Ts. have been notified to implement the scheme for Development of Agricultural marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization.

These States are in the process of formulating and notifying their rules and procedures for implementation of these amendments. Out of the remaining States, ten States have initiated administrative action for implementing the reforms.

(d) Some modifications have been incorporated in the Operational Guidelines of the Central Sector Scheme, Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization on the basis of the requests/suggestions received from the State Governments. Under the modified guidelines, State Agencies will now have the option to invest their own funds in lieu of the bank loan. There will be no need of a joint inspection with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) authorities for Infrastructure projects having total financial outlays of less than Rs. 10.00 lakh and the subsidy in such cases will be released in a single instalment. The quantum of subsidy for the projects in Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir has been up-scaled to 33.33% of the capital cost with an upper ceiling of Rs. 60 lakh, which was earlier provided for the projects in North Eastern States. The above modified norms have made the scheme more attractive in the above said three States and have also created a scope for development/strengthening of marketing infrastructure and wholesale/rural markets in all the notified States through the State Agencies and private investors. State Agency Projects for assistance have been received from Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. As far as credit linked projects of private investors/other agencies are concerned, as on 11.12.2006, 1161 projects involving a total investment of Rs. 304.73 crore with total eligible subsidy of Rs. 50.33 crore have been sanctioned under the Scheme in seven States.

Rajasthan's share In milk production

†2595. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of Rajasthan in total production of milk in the country;
- (b) the per capita availability of milk in Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana; and
- (c) the details of the milk production under the White Revolution Scheme of the Central Government during the last three years?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.